



## County of Sacramento

### A Guide to Evaluating Dented Cans

Cans that are leaking, bulging, or have holes are considered unsafe and must be discarded. Cans that are dented may or may not be safe to use. The following descriptions will help you determine which dented cans should be discarded and which are safe to use. Be sure to refer to the pictures as well as their descriptions. If you find yourself with a dented can you are unsure of, don't take a chance. **When in doubt, throw it out!**

#### Unsafe – discard or return to distributor

- Dent on side seam or end seam
- Dent has sharp or pointed edge
- Can is leaking
- Can has holes
- Lid is bulging
- Can is swollen



**Discard:**  
*Dent on side seam*



**Discard:**  
*Dent on end seam*



#### Unsafe – Discard

- Can is swollen
- Lid is bulging
- Lid flexes under pressure





**Discard:**  
Severe crease – can has been partially crushed



**Discard:**  
Dent has pointed/sharp edges



**Discard:**  
Two dents come together to form a point/crease



**Discard:**  
Dents that affect the end seam



**Seamless Ends**  
Some cans only have a seam at the top – these cans have no seam at the bottom and may be used if the dent is on the seamless portion and does not create a hard crease or point



**Ok to Use:**  
Soft dent on side of can has no hard crease or pointy edges.  
Minor ding on edge does not affect seal

